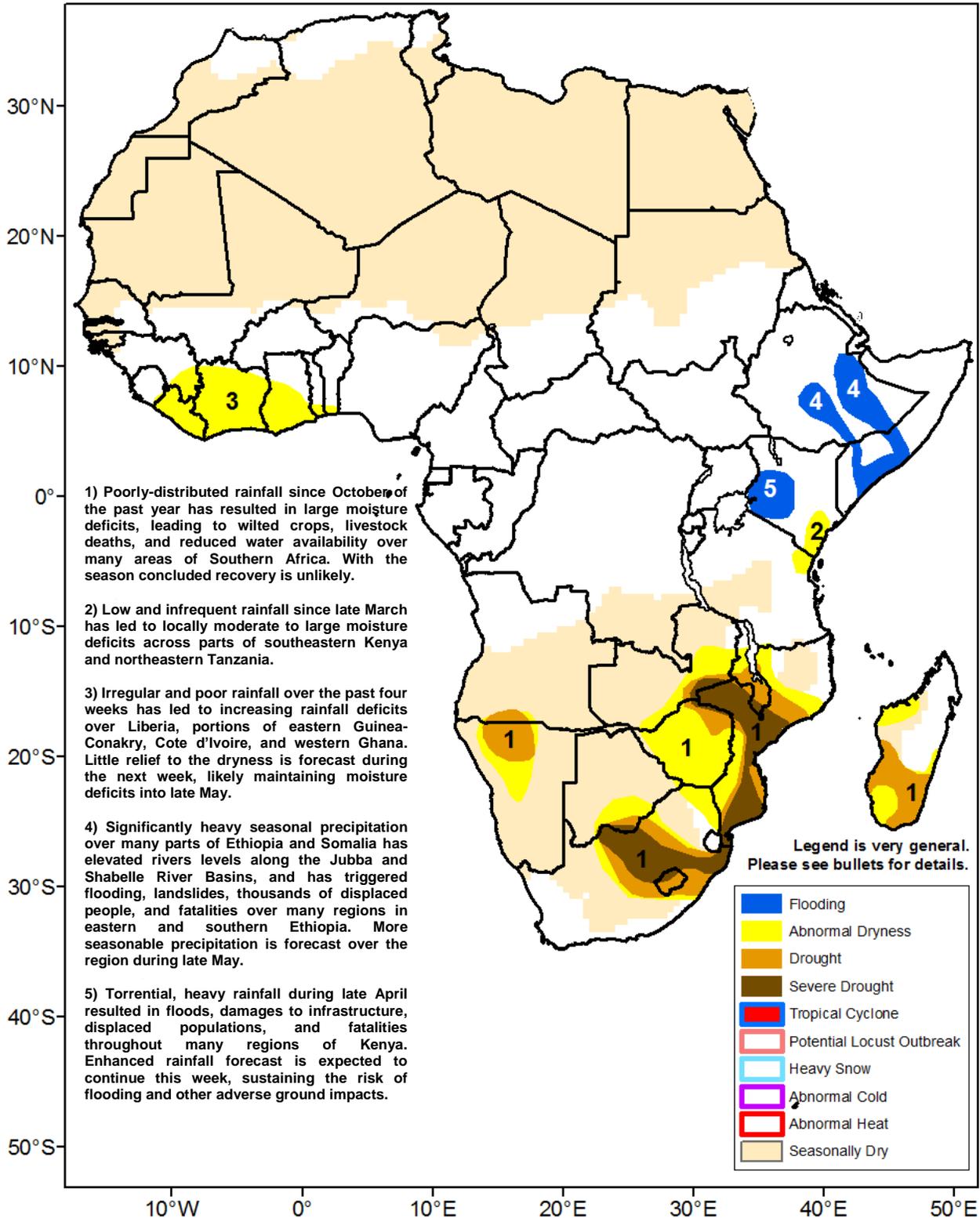




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 19 – May 25, 2016

- Heavy rains trigger floods, thousands of displaced people, and fatalities across parts of Ethiopia.
- More seasonable rainfall expected for much of the Greater Horn during late May.



Heavy, flooding inducing rains shift over Ethiopia during early May.

During early May, enhanced seasonal rains continued over the Greater Horn of Africa. Compared to the previous week, decreased rainfall was received over many parts of Somalia, with heavier amounts observed across many parts of Ethiopia according to satellite rainfall estimates. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations were received over eastern and southwestern Ethiopia (**Figure 1**) which reportedly triggered numerous floods, landslides, thousands of displaced people and fatalities during the last seven days. Further east, light to moderate rainfall was received across central and southern portions of Somalia, with light showers observed throughout southeastern Kenya.

Over the past 30 days, a consistent pattern of stronger than average lower-level monsoon convergence over the Greater Horn has led to several consecutive weeks of enhanced rainfall. With little relief from heavy rains and saturated grounds, many local areas in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya are experiencing one of the wettest second halves of March-May season on record. Analysis of seasonal rainfall percentiles depicts the wettest conditions over northern Horn, with many areas falling above the 97th percentile since the middle of April (**Figure 2**). The current wet pattern was preceded by a relatively dry April, where concerns of early season dryness would lead to another failed rainy season over many belt-producing areas. However, nearly all moisture deficits and dryness concerns have been mitigated for the season, except for local areas in southeastern Kenya where dryness persists.

During the upcoming outlook period, a return to more seasonable rainfall is forecast during the middle of May throughout much of Horn. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall accumulations are expected for portions of western and southwestern Ethiopia, southwestern Kenya, with more light to moderate rainfall totals across many flood affected areas further east.

Little relief expected for dry portions of the Gulf of Guinea region.

Over the past few weeks, the quantity and spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall continues to remain below average leading to increased moisture deficits since the beginning of April. According to satellite rainfall estimates, several Gulf of Guinea countries have registered 30-day rainfall deficits less than 80 percent of normal, with the strongest dryness (<50 percent of normal) concentrated across western Liberia, and southern Ghana, and southern Togo (**Figure 3**). During the middle of May, precipitation forecasts suggest increased rainfall throughout the region, however, some the highest weekly accumulations may remain offshore, leading to sustained dryness before the end of the month.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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